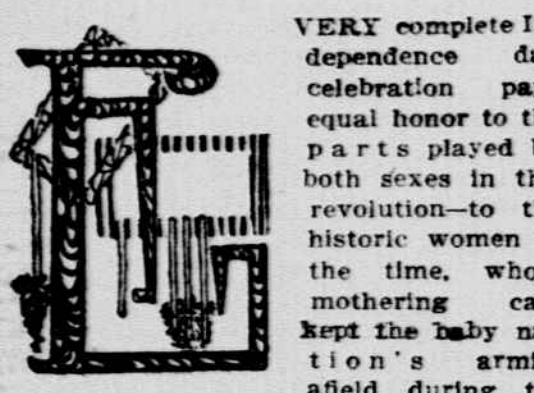


UNHONORED AND UNSUNG HEROINES WHO HELPED MAKE JULY FOURTH A REALITY

HISTORIC Women Who Mothered Care Kept the Baby Nation's Armies Afield During the Very Blackest Period of Reverse—American Woman Filled Role of Roman Matron of Old, and She Did Far More—The True Story of Moll Pitcher, and Another Woman of the Revolution Who Duplicated Her Act—"Mad Ann" Trotter Bailey, the Female Daniel Boone of the Ohio-Kanawha Region—Others Who Played Important Parts.



VERY complete Independence day celebration pays equal honor to the women of the revolution—their role in the time when mothering were kept the baby nation's armies afield during the very blackest period of reverse, as well as to the husbands, brothers and sons of those women who did the actual bloody task of musketry and savoring their way to liberty.

But it is a curious fact that although the individual work of hundreds upon hundreds of men is recorded alike by historians, poet and orator, next to none of the women who fought and wrought and died that the country might be free have been remembered by name.

It has been assumed that while the country could not have thrown off the British yoke without the co-operation of the women, at the same time their role according to prevalent opinion, was only that of the Roman matron, in which they found opportunity for no more than the inconspicuous heroism of starving and shivering that the armies might be fed and clothed, and of falling ill in the attempt to nurse the sick or wounded back to fighting trim.

As a matter of fact, however, this is very far from being the full truth. The American matron did fill the role of the Roman woman of old, but she did far more than this. Side by side with the men, American women served in battle, camp and siege, sharing the dangers and the actual campaigning to the full.

In camp they mended the soldiers' tatters and cooked the weevily food, in battle they risked their lives as bravely as the men, and out of battle they risked their lives again nursing sick and wounded. But they also played a more important part than that of the Roman matron. Such extra-hazardous duties as dispatch bearing, powder-running, scouting and spying were frequently intrusted to them.

Moreover, they worked in the thickest of battle as gun-loaders and occasionally as marksmen. While, if they had been allowed, many a woman would have enlisted as a regular soldier. Even the stay-at-home woman played a part, for it was she who had a highly important part in suppressing the Tory and Indian guerrillas who carried on their war to the very heartbeats of the patriots.

Every one who has read even the most elementary school history of course knows the name of Moll Pitcher, the heroine who took her fallen husband's place at Monmouth, serving his cannon till the end of the battle and winning the personal encomium of Gen. Washington for her valor. The full story of Moll Pitcher, however, is not so generally known as this crowning incident in her life.

Moll Pitcher was not her real name. She was born Mary Ludwig, the daughter of a German farmer in New Jersey, and was married to a Revolutionary soldier, John Hays. When her husband enlisted in Capt. Francis Proctor's company of the Continental army, went along as cook, dishwasher and seamstress to the soldiers. Many a time, when the men were away on campaign, she volunteered for these menial duties, not merely to be by her husband's side, but to do her share in the war.

Mary always accompanied her husband into action, and, like many other soldiers' wives, made herself useful by performing the dangerous duty of carrying water to the front. On the day of the battle of Monmouth, when the British were attacking the Continental army, she was with her husband, who was killed. She took his place at the cannon, and, when the British were retreating, she fired the shot that won the day.

But the military exploits of both these women, brave as they were, pale beside those of Deborah Samson, a Massachusetts girl, who disguised herself as a man, and, in the name of John Brown, led a band of patriots in the fight against the British. She was killed at the battle of the Clouds, and her death was a great loss to the cause.

She picked up the art of reading by herself, and at the age of eighteen, when the law freed her from her indenture, she set about getting further instruction. She accomplished by working in the family of a farmer half the time for her board and clothes and spending the other half of her time in attendance on the district school. Her progress was remarkably rapid, and in a few months she had progressed farther in her studies than boys and girls who had been going to school for years.

NANCY HART CAPTURES SIX TORRES.

Although not beautiful as a woman, she is said to have made a remarkably handsome boy, for her features were animated and pleasing, her figure, tall for a woman, was finely proportioned, and her whole appearance was extremely prepossessing. The recruiting sergeant accepted her, and she signed up for the war under the name of "Robert Shirriff."

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CATHARINE VAN KENSSELAER SCHUYLER, WHO BURNED HER WHEAT TO STARVE OUT THE BRITISH

By all odds the most extraordinary figure of the whole conflict was "Mad Ann" Trotter Bailey, the female Daniel Boone of the Ohio-Kanawha region. This unique character, according to her account, was born in Liverpool in 1700, the daughter of a soldier named Sargent. At the age of nineteen she was kidnapped and taken to Virginia, where she was sold as a domestic servant to pay the costs of her passage. In 1730, after having worked out her indenture, she married a man named John Trotter, who was a crack shot, a splendid rider and an expert in woodcraft. She rode a stallion that she had broken and named "Blue Danube."

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THE LYDIA DARRAH HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, WHERE THE BRITISH HELD THEIR COUNCIL OF WAR

man folks by the departure of Col. Prescott's regiment for Boston, the women of the place organized a "home guard" of sorts, and, under the leadership of Lydia Darrah, they drilled on the common, and, when the British came, they fought bravely. Lydia Darrah was a woman of great courage and determination, and she was one of the few women who fought in the American Revolution.

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DEBORAH SAMSON PRESENTING THE LETTER TO WASHINGTON

Every one of course is familiar with the story of Maj. Andre, the young officer sent by the British to negotiate the treason of Benedict Arnold, who was captured when the plot was frustrated and hanged as a spy. But only a very few are aware of the fact that indirectly the capture of Andre was due to a woman's intuition.

During the operations of the American army in the vicinity of the Hudson, Lieut. John Webb, an aid on Washington's staff, was French's neighbor at the mansion of Gerard G. Beekman, at Peekskill. One day Lieut. Webb left a valuable coat of arms of gold and silver, containing a portrait of George Washington, in the care of a servant, asking her not to give it to any one without written request from himself or his brother Sam.

Some two weeks later a neighbor named Joshua Heit Smith came riding up for the lieutenant's sword and asked as convincingly that Mr. Beekman was about to give it to him, when his wife informed Smith that the sword was in the care of a servant.

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MRS. WILLIAM M. CROSE, WIFE OF RETIRING GOVERNOR OF TUTUILA, SAMOA.

BY MARGARET B. DOWNING.
OR almost three years," remarked Mrs. Crose, wife of the Commander William Michael Crose of the United States Navy, who has just rounded out a most satisfactory service as governor of the Samoan Islands.

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signal. The four surviving bandits were taken out and hanged at once.

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